



## ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC PROTECTION CABINET

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### NEWS RELEASE

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## **FESTIVAL CELEBRATES RARE PIECE OF KENTUCKY'S HERITAGE** *Short's goldenrod among world's most endangered species*

MOUNT OLIVET, Ky. (Sept. 25, 2007) – The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) and Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park are co-hosting a festival to celebrate a rare piece of Kentucky's natural heritage: *Solidago shortii* – better known as Short's goldenrod.

The Short's Goldenrod Festival will take place at the state park in Robertson County on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT.

Short's goldenrod has been on the federal list of endangered species since 1985. Until a recent discovery in southern Indiana, the only known population in the world existed within two square miles of Blue Licks. It is one of the rarest plants protected by the commission and is an example of what makes Kentucky unique.

The Short's Goldenrod Festival 5K run and one-mile walk will begin at 9 a.m. Registration is \$10 in advance and \$15 on the day of the race. The registration table will be by the park swimming pool. Forms are available at Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park, John's Run/Walk Shop in Lexington, the KSNPC office in Frankfort and online at [www.naturepreserves.ky.gov/events/goldenrodrace](http://www.naturepreserves.ky.gov/events/goldenrodrace). For information or to pre-register, contact Alice Mandt at (502) 573-2886 or [alice.mandt@ky.gov](mailto:alice.mandt@ky.gov). The complete schedule of events can be found at [www.naturepreserves.ky.gov/events/goldenrodfestival](http://www.naturepreserves.ky.gov/events/goldenrodfestival).

Information about the commission and its mission to protect Kentucky's natural heritage can be obtained by mail (KSNPC, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Ky. 40601-1403), telephone (502-573-2886 or toll free 877-214-6173) or the Internet ([www.naturepreserves.ky.gov](http://www.naturepreserves.ky.gov)).

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